

of the government cannot pass an audit is unacceptable, let alone a department that spends more than \$600 billion annually. That is, frankly, outrageous. I bet you the Department of Housing and Urban Development can't get away with this.

Now, I am a former small-business owner, 11 years, and I can tell you one thing. I know the importance of having one's books in order. Whether it is in the private sector or the public sector, it is critical to success. In fact, we all demand that all individuals, families, organizations, and companies be able to pass an audit. Why in the world should the Pentagon be any different?

Taxpayers deserve better than black-box budgeting and two decades of "we will get on with this" rhetoric, and they keep postponing and saying "we will get to it later." That is unacceptable when it comes to ending waste, fraud, and abuse. I remember several years ago there were reports from *The New York Times*, and subsequently these reports were substantiated, that taxpayer dollars—cash money—in suitcases were being passed out in Afghanistan. What in the world are we doing? We have no clue where that money went or how much it was. It was cash money.

So we need to take this action, and I thank Mr. BURGESS and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY for this. If you ask me, I think we need to take bolder actions to address the Pentagon's failure to achieve audit-ready status and somehow at some point penalize them if they don't do that because we all would be penalized if in fact our books were not in order. So this amendment, I just have to say, is a major step in the right direction.

Mr. Chairman, the American people deserve to know how the Pentagon is spending their hard-earned tax dollars. We must end waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon. We need to achieve audit-readiness. Once again, none of us could get away with this, none, no Federal agency could get away with this. So we must begin this process for accountability and transparency. It is important that the public know exactly how their money is being spent. There is no way the Pentagon should get away with this.

So, Mr. Chairman, I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment because unauditable is unacceptable. I thank Mr. BURGESS, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment. I rise just to make two points. Number one, unfortunately, there are a lot of Federal agencies that can't pass an audit, and I hope that all the other committees of the Congress are as diligent as our committee is about making sure they get their agencies to where they can.

Our committee in particular, led by CPA Mr. CONAWAY of Texas, we have

pushed this issue, held many oversight hearings, and will continue to push this issue. I think the gentleman's amendment helps that effort. But I want to be really clear that this is a high priority of the committee, and it needs to be a high priority for the other departments besides the Department of Defense as well.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, at this point I am prepared to yield back, but I do want to thank the chairman of the full committee for hearing our amendment this evening. I also want to thank him for what I know is a significant amount of work and challenge to get this bill to the floor.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to its speedy passage tomorrow, and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK) having assumed the chair, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK) at 9 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.

#### TRIBUTE TO NEVADA SENATOR HOWARD CANNON

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Nevada Senator Howard Cannon.

In 1982, I served as Senator Cannon's faculty intern; and every day, in my district office, I have the privilege of sitting behind his personal desk, loaned to me by his daughter Nancy Downey. It serves as a constant reminder of his many heroic acts. From delivering

paratroopers in the lead plane on D-Day to passionately advocating for Nevada's interests on the Senate floor, Howard Cannon's valor and courage are truly unmatched.

This June, Nancy will travel to France to cut the ribbon on the new extension of the D-Day Paratrooper Historical Center, which features her father's restored C-47, the "Stoy Hora," among other artifacts from the invasion. It is a fitting tribute to Senator Cannon and the brave men and women who risked or lost their lives so we can live in a safer world today.

The legacy of Howard Cannon cannot be summed up in 1 minute, Mr. Speaker, so I will now submit for the *RECORD* an article from the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, titled: "Humble" Air Warrior Had Crucial D-Day Job: France to honor late Sen. Cannon.

[From the *Las Vegas Review Journal*: May 12, 2015]

"HUMBLE" AIR WARRIOR HAD CRUCIAL D-DAY JOB, FRANCE TO HONOR LATE SEN. CANNON, OTHERS FOR WWII ROLES

(By Keith Rogers)

Among the accomplishments of Nevada's late-Sen. Howard Cannon, from his 33-year political career to his Air Force Reserve service as a major general, his biggest achievement arguably was his role in delivering paratroopers in the lead plane during the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion of Normandy, France.

With mental toughness and steady hands, then-Maj. Cannon, co-pilot of the C-47 Skytrain "Stoy Hora," and pilot Col. Frank Krebs, commander of the 440th Troop Carrier Group, spearheaded the assault to free France from the grip of Nazi Germany's forces.

Had their plane and others in the 45-ship formation not made it to the drop zone near St. Mere Eglise, the soldiers of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment might never have been able to provide the cover and distraction for the massive troop landings on the Normandy coast that marked a turning point in World War II.

For that, the grand opening of the extension at the D-Day Paratroopers Historical Center featuring the restored C-47 "Stoy Hora," the pilot's log book and other artifacts will be held June 12 in Normandy's Saint-Come-du-Mont. A flight simulator with special effects will treat visitors to a simulated 7-minute flight inside the aircraft.

Cannon's daughter, Nancy Downey of Genoa, and Krebs' daughter, Christine Goyer, will cut the ribbon with Ethan Wolverton, great-grandson of Lt. Col. Robert Wolverton, commander of the 3rd Battalion's stick of paratroopers, who was killed by German machinegun fire while he dangled in his harness after his parachute caught on a tree.

"In our region, we feel that the pilots and crews have not been significantly recognized for their action on D-Day, and we are attempting to not forget them in our museum extension," event coordinator Michel de Trez wrote in Downey's invitation. "It is also our way to honor those who fought and died on the sector where we are located."

In a telephone interview from Minden last week, Downey said she is looking forward to seeing the C-47 her father flew 71 years ago.

"I think it's a great honor to be a pilot of something that's living history, to be a memorial to people like my dad who risked their lives and lost lives to help, not only France, but the world be a safer place," she